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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1084 (1996) of 27 November 1996 in which the Council requested me to continue my efforts with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to break the impasse blocking the implementation of the Plan for the settlement of the question of Western Sahara.

As indicated in my interim report of 27 February 1997 (S/1997/166) pursuant to that resolution, the impasse persists. I intend therefore to intensify the examination of all the questions blocking the implementation of the Settlement Plan. In this spirit and in accordance with paragraph 17 of my report, I have decided to appoint Mr. James Baker III as my Personal Envoy to help me assess the situation and to make recommendations to me. I hope that an exploratory visit can be undertaken to the region soon, in view of the time-frame of the current mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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